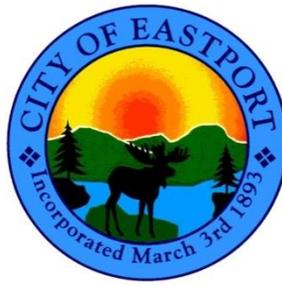


City of Eastport
22 Washington Street
Eastport, ME 04631
(207) 853-2300



December 14, 2022

Washington County Commissioners
85 Court Street
Machias, ME 04654

Dear Commissioner Chris Gardner, Commissioner John Crowley and Commissioner Vinton Cassidy:

Washington County's receipt of over six million dollars in ARPA funds was good news that lays the foundation for improvements across the county. The Eastport Fiber Connectivity Committee, and Eastport City council, as well as other Downeast communities are looking for guidance on how we can apply for a grant to support the planning and implementation of fiber-optic Internet connectivity for our residents and businesses.

The benefit to underserved populations, K-12 students and educators, college students, healthcare delivery, and local small businesses and entrepreneurs will be huge. This modern connectivity will allow us to retain and grow our resident population, make Eastport more attractive for small to medium sized businesses, and promote local entrepreneurs to establish year-round businesses. This will expand our tax base, help reduce residential property taxes, and lay a foundation for a vibrant, growing, and "connected" Downeast.

Please share the county's plans for the funds, the application process, and who on your staff we can reach out to and have a conversation about moving forward.

Sincerely,

William Boone
City Council President
City of Eastport

City of Eastport
City Council